Almost everyone knows the Lewis and Clark expedition. When you were in elementary school, you heard about Lewis, Clark, and Sacajawea. But there was a lot more people involved.

The expedition was the first expedition west and took about 2 years too complete, but it was worth exploring this area because they found over 300 species, the Rocky Mountains, and 50 Indian tribes.

Lewis and Clark were both born in Virginia but Clark was 4 years older. They were also in the U.S. army.

Thomas Jefferson wanted to explore west even before the Louisiana was purchased. When the U.S. bought Louisiana Thomas Jefferson met with Lewis and told him to take notes on plant and animal life and land formers that are worth noting, and study Native Americans

They came into St.Louis and met up with Clark. They called themselves the Cor of discovery. They left on May 14 1804 up the Missouri river with 33 men altogether.

**The expedition followed the Missouri through what is now** [**Kansas City, Missouri**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kansas_City,_Missouri)**, and** [**Omaha, Nebraska**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omaha,_Nebraska). On August 20, 1804, Sergeant [Charles Floyd](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Floyd_(explorer)) died, apparently from acute [appendicitis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appendicitis). He was buried at [Floyd's Bluff](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floyd%27s_Bluff), in what is now [Sioux City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sioux_City), [Iowa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iowa). During the final week of August, Lewis and Clark reached the edge of the [Great Plains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Plains), a place abounding with [elk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elk), [deer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deer), [bison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Bison), and [beavers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beaver).

They passed through this area but they soon entered the Sioux Country. Their first encountered them was with the Yankton Sioux. They were peaceful people and Yankton Indians warned them of their neighbors the Teton Sioux. When they met up with the Teton Sioux, Lewis and Clark tried to give them a medal, a military coat, and hat. The Teton Sioux accepted but they also wanted the boat as a price of passage. Things quickly turned bad. The Indians became a threat and Clark drew his sword and Lewis turned the keelboat gun on them. Then both sides backed off.

They traveled as many miles as they could before winter came. The deiced to build a fort called Fort Mandan after the Mandan Tribe. While they were there they hunted for buffalo. They also hired a French man named Toussaint Charbonneau, and his wife Sacajawea.

When spring came they headed the direction they all preferred. West. They also entered Grizzly Country. They have been warned about these bears but Lewis didn’t really stress about this. But on April 29 they spotted two grizzly bears. They injured one but the other one charged. They ran around 80 yards before they could reload and kill the bear. That changed Lewis’s mind.

Around early May, while sailing down the river, a gust of wind caught a vessel’s sail and flipped it over on its side. Quick actions by Sacajawea, who was in the vessel when it flipped, saved journals, and a precious cargo. The whole crew wanted to see the Rocky Mountains so they can climb the mountains and continue the expedition. In the final week of May the finally saw the Rocky Mountains.

On June 3rd they had another problem. There was a fork in the river. They could not afford a wrong decision so Lewis and three other people to scout the southern part of the branch to see which one was the Missouri. Back at fort Mandan the Mandan people told Lewis and Clark the only way they could see which branch the Missouri is to find the Great Falls. On June 13th Lewis found the Great Falls and rejoined Clark on June 16th and the continued their expedition.

The closer they got to the mountains the better they could see what they had to climb. The Rocky Mountains are 14,400 ft and covered in snow. When they were at fort Mandan they were also told they meet the horse rich Shoshone people. But so far there is no sign of them.

On August 11 they spotted an Indian on horseback. They had finally found the Shoshone Indians. When the Indian took them to the chef, with a stroke of luck was Sacajawea’s brother. They soon were bargaining for horses. Without them the expedition will most likely fail. But the price kept going up. The first day the horses were for a knife and an old shirt. When Clark finally offered his knife, a pistol, and one hundred rounds of ammunition the price stop going up. They also got information about getting up the mountain. An old man told them of a pass that was used by the Nez Perce people. They now had a way up the mountains.

Snow fell on the day they set off for the continental dived and food and supplies were running low but they finally met up with the Bitterroots valley. They met up with Flathead Indians and bought more horses for the journey. Lewis and Clark knew that if the expedition survived this part of the journey they would make it to the Pacific Ocean.

After 11 days of climbing the Rockies the horses were near starvation. The men ended up eating three of them which didn’t help them much. After a few more days they finally met the Nez Price people who gave them dried fish and roots. They set up camp near the Clearwater River. Then on October 7th they left camp and went downstream on the Clearwater River which is a branch of the Colombia River with their views on the Pacific Ocean. They reached the Snake River on October 10 and the Colombia River on October 16th. By the middle of November they had made it to the Pacific Ocean. They thought they could find a ship that could take them home but Lewis decided to spend the winter there. They made a fort called Fort Clatsop. Rain fell almost everyday. They traded with the local Indians. The corps was hoping to find a local trading ship and go home. Their was one ship that stop during their stay but the Indians didn’t tell them. They left on December 30th.

On July 3rd  Lewis and Clark deiced to split up and map out more land. Lewis’s groups were in a territory with a dangerous tribe called the Blackfeet people. The Blackfeet tribe thought Lewis’s group looked friendly and offered to camp with them and Lewis agreed. Taking no chances the stood guard of the camp. In the morning an Indian tried to steal a pair of riffles. In the fight to get the guns back two Indians died. Clark’s group wasn’t doing much better. They woke up one morning and found their horse’s gone. When Clark’s group was out hunting they thought was an elk but was really Lewis. The bullet past through Lewis’s thigh but wasn’t fatal. They had been reunited and they found the Missouri which would bring them home. They dropped off Sacajawea, and her husband. They were almost home. On September 20th they entered St. Louis to gunfire solutes and one thousand people cheering. Their expedition was finally over. It took them 2 years, 4 months, ten days.